



CIO of the
Commonwealth
Lem Stewart

From the CIO

I want to extend a special thank you to all who participated in the first Commonwealth Agency Information Technology Resource (AITR) communications meeting last month. As I said, my intent is to focus these meetings around topics and issues of interest to you and to spend more time answering your questions. This intense two-way communication is essential and your input invaluable as we work to transform state government's IT infrastructure. I look forward to our next AITR communication session on October 23.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lem".

ITIB forms Customer Advisory Council

The Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB) is forming an ITIB Customer Advisory Council. The new council will provide real time input that will be valuable in enhancing the ITIB's understanding of the needs of all customers served by the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra will serve as chair and ITIB Vice Chair Hiram Johnson will serve as vice chair. They will select various customers of VITA, including representatives of state agencies, local governments and educational institutions, to serve on the council, and begin scheduling meetings as soon as practicable.

RTIP sent to Governor, General Assembly

The Recommended Technology Investment Projects (RTIP) Report was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly on September 1 by the ITIB.

[Click here to read the RTIP](#)

Security officers discuss COOP planning

Continuity of operations (COOP), preparedness and disaster recovery planning involving information technology were discussed at the meeting of state agencies' Information Security Officers Advisory Group last month. Curtis Brown of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness discussed the increased focus on statewide efforts. Brittany Schaal presented the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's COOP process. The session was hosted by the Commonwealth Chief Information Security Officer Peggy Ward and VITA.



IT Infrastructure Partnership includes audit requirements

The IT Infrastructure Partnership with Northrop Grumman calls for operational, financial, internal controls and security audits. Northrop Grumman is engaging Deloitte & Touche to perform the audits. The operational and financial audits likely will not involve state agencies; however, VITA may engage AITRs, Information Security Officers and Internal Audit personnel for input on the internal controls and security audits. Please contact Chief Information Security Officer Peggy Ward at (804) 343-9060 or peggy.ward@vita.virginia.gov with questions or concerns.

DEQ servers successfully moved



Detailed planning, careful coordination and teamwork resulted in safely and securely moving Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) servers to VITA over Labor Day weekend. The IBM Blade Center, including 53 servers, tape library vault, network hardware and other IT equipment, was relocated. The equipment serves approximately 1,000 DEQ staff members. The move even involved the disassembling and reassembling of the scaffolding beside the DEQ building. The move was a joint effort of VITA-Northrop Grumman IT Infrastructure Partnership and DEQ.

Security standards designed to protect Commonwealth data

Breaches of sensitive electronic data, such as the loss of laptops, have attracted national media attention and heightened concern among citizens whose data may have been compromised. Virginia has a new standard to help agencies to secure sensitive data. Leaders and IT staff at state agencies staff are urged to become familiar with the new standard and the related policy to protect Commonwealth data.

[Click here to read more on sensitive data](#)

Northrop Grumman partners with UVa-Wise

The University of Virginia's College at Wise and Northrop Grumman last month announced a public-private partnership that will strengthen both the college's technology curriculum and the company's workforce recruitment efforts in Southwest Virginia. Northrop Grumman also announced a \$1 million commitment to enhance UVa-Wise's new software engineering degree program, the only one of its kind in Virginia. The partnership will augment Northrop Grumman's workforce development at the new Southwest Enterprise Solutions Center (SESC) in Russell County. Groundbreaking for the new center, which will include the IT Infrastructure Partnership help desk and back-up data center, is scheduled this month. The SESC will create 433 new high-tech jobs in Southwest Virginia.

CAC represents state agencies

An active VITA Customer Advisory Council (CAC) promotes the interests of state agencies served by VITA. Members of the council are Betty Bowman, Department of Charitable Gaming; Dr. Jim Burns, Department of Health; Lan Neugent, Department of Education; Rick Phillips, Department of Accounts; Murali Rao, Department of Transportation; Harry Sutton, Department of Social Services; John Taylor, Department of Corrections; Johnny Thomas, Virginia Employment Commission; and Valerie Thomson, Department of Environmental Quality. Agency staff members are urged to share concerns or challenges with members of the council for discussion at its monthly meetings with VITA staff.

Social Services, VITA's Virginia.gov net national honors

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was honored with a first place award in the "Government to Government" category and the state's Web portal, Virginia.gov, was ranked fourth in the "Best of the Web" category in the Center for Digital Government achievement awards. [VDSS](#) was honored for its unique data-sharing application known as SPiDER, or Systems Partnering in a Demographic Repository, which allows seamless data sharing between service delivery agencies at the local, state and federal levels. [Virginia.gov](#), the state's Web portal, moved up from fifth to fourth place in this year's "Best of the Web" competition, in large part because of a significant redesign earlier this year. VITA manages the state's Web portal and e-government applications through a public-private partnership. Virginia.gov has placed in the competition's top five for the five consecutive years it has been eligible.

Page 2 of 3

Governor's Technology Award winners announced



Winners of this year's Governor's Technology Awards announced at COVITS included the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Library of Virginia, CentraHealth, Virginia Department of Social Services, George Mason University, Virginia Department for Mines, Minerals and Energy, City of Danville, Prince William County, City of Chesapeake, The Online Academy, Virginia Beach City Schools, Blue Ridge Community College, and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research.

On the calendar

Oct. 18-19 – Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB) quarterly meeting

On the Web

www.vita.virginia.gov
<http://www.vita.virginia.gov/ITIB/ITIB.cfm>
www.northropgrumman.com